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November 23, 1979

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(b)(3)

SAUDI ARABIA

Armed religious fanatics holding an unknown number of hostages still appear to control parts of the Grand Mosque in Mecca. [redacted]

[redacted]

Information Minister

Yamani said in a news broadcast early yesterday that security forces should capture the mosque in a "matter of hours." [redacted]

[redacted]

Ayatollah Khomeini, seeking to exploit the situation at the expense of the US, has accused the US of perpetrating the Mecca incident. The Iranians have also begun broadcasting Khomeini's speeches to Saudi Shias. [redacted]

[redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE []
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